462 cases where even mothers of very large families (11-12 children) held teaching or other positions. The worker's wife usually stayed home with her small children, unless she had her own mother to care for them.

462 Rural families, on the whole, had more children than urban ones. This meant also that a farm wife's duties were more numerous than those of her sisters in the cities; the care of children, housekeeping, the care of the cattle, as well as gardening and even field work when necessary in the summer.

582 The marriage age in Estonia in rural communities as well as urban ones was higher than in America. In many cases marriage was delayed for a farm male because his parents did not want to give over the reins to the son.

000 In general, the family pattern in Estonia

342 used mainly as the sleeping room of the grown-
574 up children or the young married couple, if they are staying with the parents. Also, the guests on their first visit are invited to stay in this room. Since the people seldom go to this room, its floor is exemplarily clean. Often it is covered with a home-woven rug.

356 Cleaning the rooms and keeping them in order has almost a ritual significance for the Votes. The floors and the wall benches were formerly scrubbed every Saturday. But before great holidays, especially before Easter, the cleaning was extended also to the walls and even the ceilings. Therefore the walls of the Votic rooms, even though they were not white-washed or covered with wallpaper, were amazingly clean. In addition to the washing and scrubbing, the old people remember another special method for cleaning which was employed before festivals and weddings. This was the scraping of the walls. The walls of the rooms which had no stove were first swept clean of soot and then scraped still whiter with a special iron tool or with big knives. For Christmas, Easter and other great holidays and for weddings, the floors were covered with
[764] straw. When there was a corpse in the house, fir branches were strewn on the floors.

584 Customs, superstitions. The Votic wedding customs in earlier times were considerably different from what they are today. Porthan tells that at the end of the eighteenth century the Votic boys did their wooing as they wished, without the knowledge of their or the
● [582] girls' parents. The usual age for marriage was 15 years for the boys and 12-15 for the girls. The young people informed the priest of their